organised to discuss this issue because this has arisen because of the decision of the Supreme Court; and in that all party meeting of leaders, the Government will not hesitate to discuss this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Ram Naik.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI NORTH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards in famous scam of Chain Ram Bhansali i.e. C.R.B. capitals. Common man, the small investors have lost Rs. 1200 crores by way of investment in the C.R.B. Capital who so ever is responsible for it whether it is SEBI or the Reserve Bank or the Ministry of Finance each one of them is blaming the other for that. It is just pssing on the buck. Presently there are about 37,000 non-banking financial companies working in the country. Today itself it has been stated in a reply during the question Hour that 10 million thousand crore people have invested in them. In that regard one scam has come to surface.

But SEBi has not properly discharged its duty in this case. The Reserve Bank had granted their permission in principle to establish a global bank. Now when the whole scam has come to light the Ministry of Finance. The Finance Minister is present here, so he may please pay attention that his Department has given exemption for Esteem bond on March 15, 1997. Earlier we used to say that

[English]

In Government, the right hand is not knowing what the left hand is doing

[Translation]

but now we have come to a situation when one finger does not know as to what is being done by the other finger of that very hand.

We met the Prime Minister twice regarding this matter. A delegation of M.Ps from Mumbai met him. The Prime Minister had given an assurance that he would look into the matter. We put forth three demands. While telling about the first one we told him that the lessons were derived from the security scam but

[English]

those lessons have not been learnt by the Government.

[Translation]

In the earlier scam a bank has been involved but in this scam, small investors have been entrapped. Therefore, a Joint Parliamentary Committee might be constituted to probe into the C.R.B. Capital Scam. At that time the Prime Minister had said

[English]

"I am not averse to such a Committee"

[Translation]

Therefore, I demand that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be constituted to look into this matter. Secondly as per the existing provisions of law, the bankcrupt party before going into actual liquidation, has to pay at first the Government dues. It, being so the small investors will not get anything. Therefore my second demand is that out of the money realised from the CRB Capital through the liquidator, payment should be made first to the small investors and then to anybody else. Care should also be taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of this type of incident and to achieve that end it may be ensured that out of the total amount of deposit kept in all such non-financial banking companies, at least an amount upto Rupees two lacs should be kept as an insured amount in the same way as it is done in case of Bank deposits. This is my demand and as the Prime Minister is not present in the House I would like to know as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Finance Minister in this matter. He may kindly apprise the House about it *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is here. He may say something about this matter *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): I have taken note of it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has said that he has taken note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Please stand a while to speak so that the entire House may come to know about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has stated.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: I have noted down your points.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the flood situation in several districts of Bihar State.

Recently, almost every area in Bihar state experienced floods due to heavy rains and farmers had to face a lot of difficulties and losses. Patna, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Katihar and Supaul are the places where the floods wreak havoc every year. I went to meet the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture as well, in order to draw their attention towards this problem.

Bihar has suffered a loss of crops worth crores of rupees due to floods. You are requested to provide assistance to compensate that. But as per my knowledge, so far nothing concrete has been done by the Govt. in this direction and as a result, the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties. The seeds, which were sown, have been

destroyed. There is no hope for the crops. This may result into a famine. I, therefore, would like to request hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture to immediately provide funds from calamity relief fund to save the poor labourers and farmers from starvation. With this, I would like to conclude.

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA (GHAZIPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some political parties and social organisations have been demanding to form a separate State of eastern Uttar Pradesh for the last one year. We do not support the idea either at the personal level or the party level. But I can say it without any hesitation that the area which has contributed a lot in the freedom movement has been totally neglected by the Central Government.

Late Vishwanath Gehmari ji who was a M.P. from our area, had stated about the miserable condition of that area in the House. The Hon. Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru constituted the Patel Commission for the purpose. The recommendations of Patel Commission have not been implemented till date. Through you, I would like to request the Government to clear the schemes and projects pertaining to roads, irrigation and electricity in the most backward divisions of Gajipur, Balia, Varanasi, Azamgarh and Gorakhpur. The Government should provide special assistance package to complete these schemes. I would like to request you to kindly take an appropriate action in this regard.

I would like to request Shri Chandra Shekharji and the leader of Opposition to draw the attention of the Govt. for the upliftment of these backward areas.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: This issue was also raised by Shri Gahmari ji in this House. Atal ji was also present in the House. He can verify it that while describing the situation, Shri Gahmari started crying and the Hon. Shri Nehru ordered the consitution of Patel Commission, but the recommendation made by the Commission have not been implemented till date. The people of this area are a distressed lot. This is the golden jubilee year of Independence and I would like to remind you that people of these districts of Poorvanchal played a leading role in the freedom struggle.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to pay attention to the point raised by Shri Manoj Sinha as there was a plan to form a special development board for this region, which could not be implemented. Shri Atal ji was present there, I therefore, would request him to kindly support this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is also present today.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW): This is true. I was present in the House at that time when Shri Gahmari had told about the miserable condition of the districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and while doing so, he started crying. Shri Nehru was also present in the House as the Prime Minister. He was also moved by this speech. As a result, a commission was set up to assess the backwardness of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and thereby suggest remedies to solve this problem. The report came in but was not implemented. The development Board was not constituted. Even today, this region of Uttar Pradesh is considered amongst the poorest region. That is why, a demand for a separate state is raised by the people of this region. The Central Government is making a large scale spending for the Golden Jubliee celebration of Independence. Such spending can be justified upto some extent but it would be more appropriate if funds are allotted for certain scheme meant for backward areas in the Golden Jubilee year of our Independence.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (FEROZPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the miserable condition of the farmers of Punjab. The farmers of Punjab who produce the largest quantity of paddy and other crops are a worried lot. The PR 106 paddy which the Govt. have been purchasing as super fine quality for the last thirty years, now being purchased as a fine quality. Thus the farmers are not being paid the right price for their produce. I had raised their issue last year also in the House. The Government has not issued any directions to put an end to their woes. This is very unfortunate that the PR 106 quality produced in Punjab is being purchased as fine quality but the same quality gets the rate of super fine quality in the markets of Haryana, J & K or Himachal Pradesh. The Government agencies are just looking the farmers on the pretext of presence of moisture and the size of rice. But the same paddy gets higher rate in the market of Haryana and other states. The Government should immediately take corrective steps to stop this loot and pay the farmers adequately, during the present paddy seasons.

13.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then Adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the clock

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14.34 hrs.

[English]

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-Four Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *IN THE CHAIR*)

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

NEED FOR STREAMLINING THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the time allotted for the discussion on Public Distribution System under Rule 193

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*At 14.03 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 14.06 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 14.09 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Additional Secretary informed the Members present as follows:

"There is no quorum. So, the House cannot meet; and we cannot start the House till there is a quorum. Hon. Chairman has directed that the House will reassemble at twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock."